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**Ministry of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture
Invites the community in general to a
national congress on how to combat
child abuse and negligence**

ORANJESTAD — Child abuse is a worldwide concern. Many departments and institutions all over the world are very concerned with this problem and are working tirelessly to make people aware of it. On Aruba child abuse is becoming a huge preoccupation. This is why the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture organized a national Congress on Child Abuse and Negligence.

The congress will be on Saturday, November 20, at the Westin Hotel from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. This date was especially chosen because it coincides with the International Day of the Child and Children's Rights. There will be several experts



who will discuss different issues concerning child abuse.

De Palm Tours will provide transportation to the Westin FREE of charge. The

bus will depart from the YMCA San Nicolas at 11:30 a.m. to the Westin Hotel and from the Westin at 5:00 p.m. back to the YMCA San Nicolas.

To make this activity more attractive, the organizing committee has a complete entertaining program for the children and even a care center for the smaller ones. Both services are FREE of charge.

Minister of Social Affairs, Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar invites everyone to assist to this congress.

"It is a national concern and as responsible citizens we must all know what to do to put a big STOP to this problem," she said.



Attention

The Aruba Police Force announces to the public in general that they will have a "viewing day" at their offices in Oranjestad coming Saturday.

The intention is for the victims of robbery to take a look to see if they can recognize any of their stolen belongings.

After a successful investigation the police force sometimes gets a lot of goods that they do know to whom they belong.

The viewing day will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at the Police offices in Oranjestad, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

It is very important to bring along some receipt or a photo of the stolen goods as proof. A copy of the declaration of robbery is also useful and a valid identification (driving license, passport or ID).

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Haiti cholera epidemic could claim 10,000 lives

POR-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - Haiti's cholera outbreak could kill 10,000 people, health officials warned yesterday, amid fears the epidemic which has claimed hundreds of lives may spill beyond the country's borders.

"Our projections show that we could have around 200,000 cases of infection in Haiti over the next six to 12 months," Pan-American Health Organization regional advisor Ciro Ugarte told AFP.

"If the fatality rate (of four to five percent) is maintained... we may have 10,000 dead," said Ugarte, stressing that would be the worst case scenario.

Isolated cholera cases have been found in the Dominican Republic -- it shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti -- and as far away as the southern US state of Florida, prompting local officials to take precautions.

Haiti's health ministry said yesterday that 1,100 people have now died since cholera



People collect water near the quake-destroyed Presidential Palace

was first detected in the nation in late October. The number of people hospitalized also grew to a total of 18,382.

The disease has surfaced for the first time in the Dominican Republic, with one person who crossed over the border from Haiti being treated for vomiting and diarrhea.

The Dominican Republic, a popular tourist destination,

Toll from La Nina-fuelled rains in Colombia climbs to 136

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) - Furious storms that have been lashing Colombia all this year have killed another six people, pushing the overall death toll to 136, the Red Cross told AFP yesterday.

The new deaths occurred Tuesday. A mudslide in a slum on the outskirts of Bogota claimed four of the lives, the national director of the Red Cross, Carlos Marquez, said.

The organization estimated that 1.2 million people in Colombia had been affected by the record rains, with 1,700 homes destroyed and nearly 3,000 damaged. Secondary roads in most of the country

have also been hit.

The storms were being blamed on atmospheric disturbances from La Nina, a phenomenon in which cooler-than-normal water circulates in the Pacific Ocean around the equator.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Saturday made an appeal for international help to cope with the situation.

"We are doing all we can, but it's not enough and we need help from everybody, from private companies to international aid, to mitigate the suffering of so many of our people," he said.

was in a "pre-epidemic phase," Health Minister Baltista Rojas Gomez said.

Dominican President Leonel Fernandez held an emergency meeting with his cabinet yesterday to brainstorm on ways to combat the disease.

Merkel is among 15 recipients of the award named by US President Barack Obama, who

also named former president George H.W. Bush, legendary investor Warren Buffett and poet Maya Angelou.

Obama noted that Merkel is the first woman and first East German to serve as chancellor of a unified Germany" and "has often said that freedom is the happiest experience of her life."

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama has awarded German Chancellor Angela Merkel the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, the White House said yesterday.

In Britain the service is in partial operation.

"The disappearance of a child is always a tragedy and in some cases their life may even be at risk," said Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding.

"The 116 000 number offers help, support and a potential lifeline for missing children and their parents."

The hotline would enable every child and every parent to remember one number instead of 27 national ones.

The Commission said obstacles to full service across the EU stemmed from lack of information from the public and operators about the existence of the line, as well as the cost.

A further snag is offering multilingual operators.

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - Europe issued a frantic "final call" for a single continent-wide 116 000 hotline for missing children, yet to be activated by all European Union member states.

"Every effort should be made to make 116 000 operational," said Matthew Newman, a spokesman for the European Union's executive Commission. "People on holiday anywhere in Europe should have the same number to call."

Giving defaulting nations six months until May 25 to get the service up and running, he listed 13 states yet to sign up -- Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Sweden.

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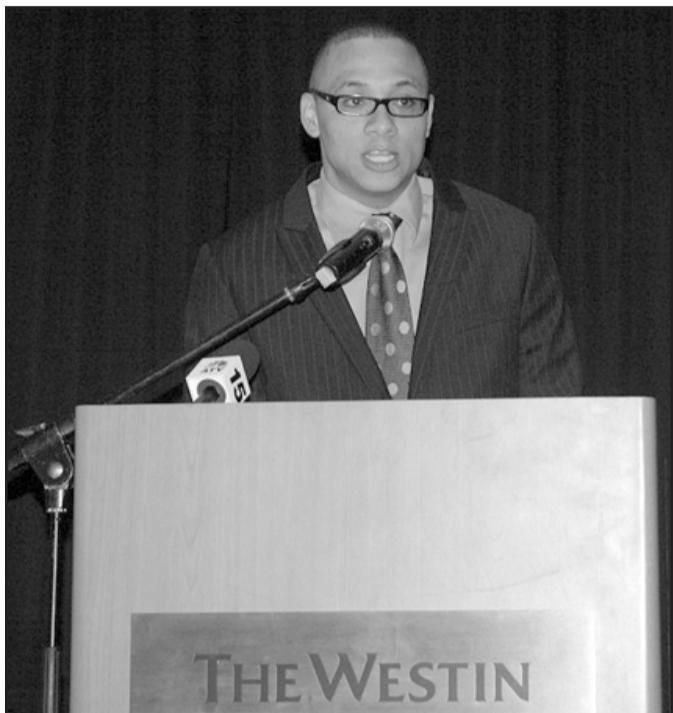
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As Digicel's SHOCO Cares' award winner Francis Groeneveldt recognized as a role model for community service

Fellow MVC colleague and last year's winner Lillian Martis remains dedicated



Digicel's Shoco Award of excellence winner Francis Groeneveldt

A full roster of outstanding tourism professionals was unveiled with the announcement of this year's SHOCO Award of Excellence winner, but truly special among them is the winner of the Digicel's "SHOCO Cares" award, honoring an individual who selflessly gives of his or her time.

specifically the Adopt-an-Addict outreach program, since 2008. The award was presented jointly through AHATA as well as Digicel, which is the exclusive sponsor of the annual awards program.

"If every person in this room contributed just one hour a month towards community work, think how much we can accomplish," stated Francis during an eloquent address given on the acceptance of his award. He went on to point out that no one should be dismissed as deserving of assistance, and he emphasized that Adopt-an-Addict for which he contributes his time is an essential factor to a healthy community.

Francis Groeneveldt has demonstrated personal commitment to helping those in need from an early age. He was involved in the "Famia di Dios" youth group and continued to pursue further avenues to assist the community. While working with MVC, he also became a board member with the Marriott Vacation Club Community Welfare Foundation, carrying out various projects in different neighborhoods along with his work colleagues.

He is one among many



Francis Groeneveldt receives his award from Digicel's GM Bert Schreuders dedicated tourism professionals working with MVC. Last year, Digicel's SHOCO Cares award went to fellow Marriott associate, Lillian Martis.

But neither Francis nor Lillian has rested on their laurels since winning Digicel's SHOCO Cares award; their lifelong dedication to community service continues to this day. Francis is now working to create his own foundation centered on the goal of providing assistance to young people.

Lillian continues to be a contributing force in the neighborhood and is the current president of the MVC Community Welfare Foundation. One recent effort she spearheaded was in the donation of 20-plus fruit trees for the Agnes Kleuterschool in Noord. She participated in a symbolic tree planting that helped emphasize what can be accomplished through combined efforts, and how those efforts may grow exponentially. It is a lesson from which everyone can learn with both Lillian and Francis serving as exemplary role models and well-deserved recipients of Digicel's SHOCO Cares award.



Lillian Martis receiving her award from Mr. Schreuders

This year's award winner was Francis Groeneveldt, who at 26 years, has established a flourishing career with the Sales & Marketing Department of Marriott Vacation Club (MVC) in Aruba, but still manages to devote himself to community work,



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Restrict the queen to ceremonial duties only, says a majority of Dutch MPs



Dutch Queen Beatrix

THE NETHERLANDS — A majority of MPs wants the queen to be restricted to ceremonial duties only, it emerged during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday afternoon.

Only the ruling VVD and CDA and two minor Christian parties want the queen to continue in her present role as formal head of the government and retain her membership of important advisory committees.

Labour, the biggest opposition party, called for the introduction of a 'modern monarchy'. 'We want a

monarchy without the appearance of political influence,' said MP Pierre Heijnen.

Opposition

The other opposition parties and government supporter PVV called for the queen to be removed from her formal position as head of the government altogether.

Prime minister Mark Rutte said later he did not want any changes in the queen's role. The queen does not have any political power and every monarch is free to do the job as he or she thinks fit, Rutte said.

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Bachelor of Law graduates at the University of Aruba



Recently, 10 students of the Law Faculty of the University of Aruba received their diploma of "Bachelor of Laws," Aruba jurisdiction. The study is of an academic level.

The study of law at the University of Aruba consists of two phases. The first one is a three year study which ends when the students get their Bachelor of Laws degree in Aruban law (LBB) and the second phase consists of a year study which ends when

the students get their "Master in Laws" degree Aruban law (LLM), titled previously known as Master in Law (mr.).

The students who received their diplomas are: Myron Tromp, Antonio Caster, Roland Dijkhoff, Geraldine Ras, Sylvie Eman, Vanessa Jie-Sam-Foek, Egidio Koolman, Jessica Koolman, Mary-Ann Kock and Angeline Vrolijk-Maduro.

During the joyous occasion

University of Aruba, mr. Eric Mijts handed the bachelor degree diploma to each one of the students while mr. Luciano Milliard, LMM recited two beautiful poems.

The students are now following the second phase of their study and hopefully soon they will get their Master in Laws degree.

The ceremony was followed by a small toast for the students and their family members.

A koala walks into Australian bar... and nods off



SYDNEY (AFP) — A koala has caused a stir at an Australian pub, wandering inside during a stormy evening and taking up a position above the bar before promptly falling asleep.

The furry male marsupial stunned drinkers on Saturday night when he entered the Marlin Bar on Queensland's Magnetic Island, approached barman Kevin Martin and ended up climbing up a supporting wooden pole and settling on a beam.

"I asked him for ID and he didn't have any so that's when he got a bit disgruntled and climbed up a pole," joked Martin yesterday.

"And he just sort of lay over the piece of wood, one of the little rafters, and flopped his arms down and just fell asleep, enjoying the

atmosphere."

Although the koala's visit was welcome, Martin said he called wildlife workers to remove the animal out of concern for its own welfare.

The koala was later set free elsewhere on the island, which has a healthy population of the animals -- unlike elsewhere in Queensland where they are threatened by development.

Martin said he does not know what prompted the koala to enter the bar, but speculated it could have been attempting to escape the rain.

"He was sort of hanging outside the pub beforehand," he said. "He looked a little bit out of his element, I think he wasn't expecting to find himself in the pub. But he seemed pretty happy nonetheless."

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Storm-hit St. Lucia banana growers need months to recover

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AFP) - The banana industry in Saint Lucia and the Windward Islands could need more than six months to fully recover from a hurricane that devastated the key export earner, officials said this week.

"As a country, we may be able to export bananas in May or June 2011," Saint Lucia Agriculture Minister Ezekiel Joseph told reporters following an official assessment of the damage by Hurricane Tomas, which struck on October 30.

He added, however, that demand in key importer Britain would be higher next year, which could help speed the industry's recovery.

"Whilst there are a lot of sad stories, there are opportunities for us as a country to capitalize on what is happening right now," he said.

The category one hurricane killed at least 14 people, sending massive landslides across major roads and devastating a local agriculture and livestock industry already weakened by



Damaged banana trees are seen in the town of Marc, after Hurricane Tomas ravaged St Lucia.

a recent drought.

Winfresh, a regional exporter that markets Windward Islands bananas in Europe, said the industry could suffer losses of nearly 30 million dollars (40 million euros) over the next six months.

Errol Reid, the director of technical support for Winfresh,

told reporters that exports could drop by 40,000 tons for the remainder of the year, representing a loss of 20 percent of total exports for 2010.

"It's a substantial loss which will last at least for the next six months," he said.

"As the second major income earner for these islands after tourism, this represents a major setback."

Bananas from Saint Lucia and nearby Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, all hit by the storm, are especially popular in Britain, officials said.

Saint Lucia, part of the Lesser Antilles in the east of the Caribbean Sea, became independent from Britain in 1979. It now has its own government, but still recognizes Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.

The government has said the damage from Tomas may cost up to 185 million dollars, posing a major economic challenge to the island's 170,000 residents.

The Netherlands returns Brueghel painting to Canada

MONTREAL, Canada (AFP) - The Netherlands yesterday returned a long-missing work by Jan Brueghel the Younger to a Canadian university, which is the beneficiary of its previous owner, a Jewish art dealer, the school announced.

The oil on copper painting called "Allegory of Earth and Water" depicts a picnic lunch with brightness and details typical of the Flemish painter's works.

It was owned by Jewish art dealer Max Stern whose collection was bequeathed to Concordia University and McGill University in Montreal, and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, following his death in Paris in 1987.

The painting, which was until recently on display at the Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch, was returned to Concordia officials at a ceremony yesterday in The Hague.

Threatened by the Nazis, Stern was forced in December 1937 to close his gallery in Dusseldorf, inherited from his father, and fled to London and then Canada after being coerced to abandon or sell some

400 paintings, sold cheaply by the Gestapo.

The painting is the eighth in Stern's original collection to be returned to the beneficiaries, but "the first delivered by a European government," said Clarence Epstein, director of the restoration project of the works of Max Stern at Concordia University.

"The Dutch government follows a rigorous procedure, probably the most noble of any country as regards to plundered artworks," Epstein said.

"Hundreds of artworks belonging to the Stern family were pillaged," said Judith Woodsworth, president of Concordia University.

"It is our hope that we will be able to recover many of the hundreds of works that were looted from the collection of Dr. Stern -- notably those currently hanging in other European museums," she added.

About 10 percent of artworks from the collection has been located, but their owners have resisted the Stern foundation's efforts to recover them, said Epstein.

Sci-Tech

Scientists dig below Dead Sea for slice of Earth's history

JERUSALEM (AFP) - An international team of scientists has begun drilling deep below the Dead Sea in an effort to extract material that could provide an unusual look at Earth's history over the past 500,000 years.

The project aims to examine the layers of sediment left behind beneath the lowest place on Earth over the course of millions of years, providing clues about shifting weather patterns, seismic activity and climate change.

"The sediments ... provide an 'archive' on the environ-

mental conditions that existed in the area in its geological past," the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, a partner in the project, said on Wednesday.

The thin slice of Earth's history will be extracted via a 1,200-metre (3,937-foot) deep borehole being drilled by a special rig that has been set up in the northern basin of the Dead Sea.

Once extracted, the layer-cake of soil will be subjected to high-resolution examination by scientists from fields ranging from climate science to

chemistry for clues about Earth's changing environment.

Details about severe weather or major seismic activity could even provide insight into human migration in and out of the region.

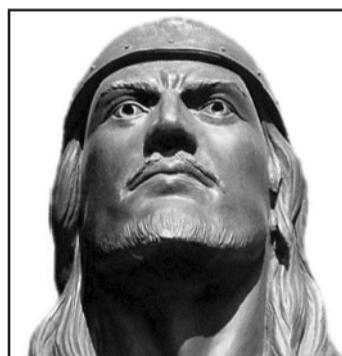
"We believe that the results of this project will have vast implications in the fields of science and environment and will shed light on new natural resources," Zvi Ben-Avraham, a professor at Tel Aviv University, and Moti Stein, with the Israel Geological Survey, said in a joint statement.

Vikings brought Amerindian to Iceland 1,000 years ago: study

MADRID (AFP) - The first Native American to arrive in Europe may have been a woman brought to Iceland by the Vikings more than 1,000 years ago, a study by Spanish and Icelandic researchers suggests.

The findings boost widely-accepted theories, based on Icelandic medieval texts and a reputed Viking settlement in Newfoundland in Canada, that the Vikings reached the American continent several centuries before Christopher Columbus travelled to the "New World."

Spain's CSIC scientific research institute said genetic analysis of around 80 people from a total of four families in Iceland showed they pos-



sess a type of DNA normally only found in Native Americans or East Asians.

"It was thought at first that (the DNA) came from recently established Asian families in Iceland," CSIC researcher Carles Lalueza-Fox was quoted as saying in

a statement by the institute.

"But when family genealogy was studied, it was discovered that the four families were descended from ancestors who lived between 1710 and 1740 from the same region of southern Iceland."

The lineage found, named C1e, is also mitochondrial, which means that the genes were introduced into Iceland by a woman.

"As the island was virtually isolated from the 10th century, the most likely hypothesis is that these genes corresponded to an Amerindian woman who was brought from America by the Vikings around the year 1000," said Lalueza-Fox.

Adobe releases patches for Acrobat, Reader

Users of Adobe programs should take note: the company on Tuesday updated its security advisory for Flash Player, Reader, and Acrobat.

The announcement brings patch updates for both Reader and Acrobat; Flash Player received a patch earlier in the month. Adobe recommends all users running Reader or Acrobat 9 or later update to 9.4.1, while users running Flash Player 10.1.85.3 are encouraged to

update to 10.1.102.64.

The issue is described by Adobe as a "critical vulnerability [that] could cause a crash and potentially allow an attacker to take control of the affected system." It was first highlighted in late October; subsequently, the company has been rolling out patches for each of its affected programs. According to Adobe, attacks exploiting this issue have so far only been leveraged against

Reader and Acrobat (version 9 or later), but Flash Player and Adobe AIR are equally vulnerable.

To install the Reader and Acrobat patches, users can run Adobe's built-in updater by going to the programs' Help menu and selecting Check for Updates. Alternatively, the patches are available directly from Adobe's Website for Reader and Acrobat; the latest Flash Player version can be only be installed from Adobe's Website.

Facebook swats bug that disabled accounts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Facebook said a bug in a system designed to detect fake profiles had disabled a number of legitimate accounts on the social network.

Facebook did not say how many accounts were disabled by the bug, which primarily affected women's accounts, according to technology blogs.

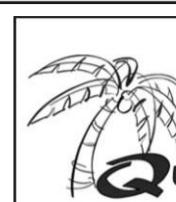
"Earlier today, we discovered a bug in a system designed to detect and disable likely fake accounts," a Facebook spokesman said on Tuesday.

"The bug, which was live for a short period of time, caused a very small percentage of Facebook accounts to be mistakenly disabled," the

spokesman said in a statement.

"Upon discovering the bug, we immediately worked to resolve it," he said. "It's now been fixed, and we're in the process of reactivating and notifying the people who were affected."

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App-centric iPhone model is overrated: RIM CEO

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The head of BlackBerry maker Research In Motion (RIM) fired a shot at rival Apple, slamming the notion that smartphones need "apps."

"You don't need an app for the Web," RIM chief executive Jim Balsillie said during an on-stage interview at a Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco.

"We believe you can bring the mobile to the Web, but you don't need to go through some kind of control point."

Applications must get Apple's approval before being allowed into the App Store at iTunes that serves as an exclusive shop for programs for iPhones, iPads, and iPod touch media players.

"It is really not about a set of proprietary rules or about appifying the Web," Balsillie said. "The Web needs a platform that allows you to use your existing Web content, not apps."

Balsillie gave as an example the multitude of online videos done in Flash software shunned by Apple and publicly ridiculed by Apple chief executive Steve Jobs.

He predicted that the era of smartphone applications would "pass real quick."

Balsillie said that he liked how Canada-based RIM was positioned with handsets and a "PlayBook" tablet that will take on Apple's iPad.

PlayBook will be priced at less than 500 dollars when it is introduced in North America in the first quarter of 2011, according to RIM. The PlayBook global launch is set for

the second quarter of the year.

RIM unveiled the PlayBook in San Francisco in September as it seeks to compete with Apple's popular iPad and Samsung's recently launched Galaxy Tab.

The PlayBook has a seven-inch (17.8-centimeter) display, smaller than the 9.7 inches of Apple's iPad, and plays Adobe Flash video software, which is banned from the Apple device.

The cheapest iPad costs 499 dollars while the top model is priced at 829 dollars.

When asked what he would say to Jobs if Apple's iconic pitchman were to appear at the Summit, Balsillie replied his first comment would be "You showed up."

On a separate competitive front, Balsillie downplayed news that near-field-communication (NFC) chips were being built into a second-generation Nexus smartphone that Google is readying for release.

"We'd be fools not to have NFC in a product in the near term, and we are not fools," Balsillie said.

A new Google mobile phone imbedded with a chip that makes it a virtual wallet so people can "tap and pay" is poised to make its debut, the Internet giant's chief Eric Schmidt said at the Summit a day earlier.

The successor to the Internet firm's Nexus One smartphone runs on a fresh version of Android software and is imbedded with a NFC chip for financial transactions, according to Schmidt.

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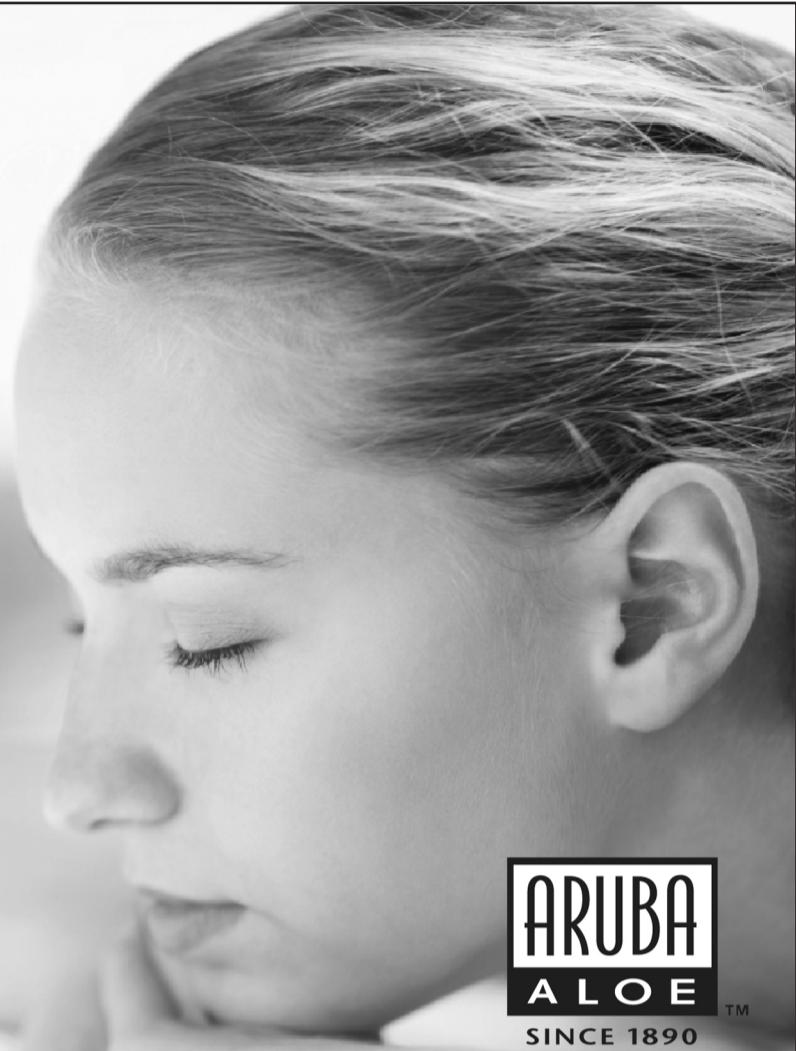
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Health & Living

FDA panel recommends first lupus drug in 50 years

WASHINGTON (AFP) – An advisory panel for the US Food and Drug Administration recommended a new drug treatment Tuesday for lupus that if approved would be the first for the disease in over 50 years.

An FDA spokeswoman said the committee voted 13-2 in favor of Benlysta, an experimental drug therapy developed by pharmaceutical companies Human Genome Sciences and GlaxoSmithKline.

The full FDA must next consider whether to approve the drug for the market, likely in December. Typically, the agency follows the advisory panel's recommendations.

"It is possible that BENLYSTA could receive regulatory approval in the United States before the end of 2010," Human Genome Sciences said on its website, noting that the FDA was scheduled to take up the mat-

ter on December 9.

There have been no new treatments in the last several decades for lupus, a disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own organs and tissues and is most often seen in women of child-bearing age.

Symptoms can include fever, swollen joints, skin rashes and severe damage of the kidneys, lungs or central nervous system.

"We are pleased to share the exciting news that Benlysta has cleared a significant hurdle on its path to becoming the first FDA-approved medication for lupus in 52 years," said Sandra Raymond, president of the Lupus Foundation of America.

"Each person with lupus is unique, and if Benlysta is approved, it would be a significant and necessary first step toward creating the full arsenal of treatments that lupus requires."

Child ear infections not helped much by antibiotics



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Using antibiotics to treat ear infections in children is only slightly more effective than offering no treatment at all, said a study published Tuesday.

Infections of the middle ear are the most common childhood infection for which antibiotics are prescribed in the United States, said the study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

A 2006 study showed that an average of 350 dollars per child is spent on treating such

ear infections, known as acute otitis media (AOM), for a total of 2.8 billion dollars spent per year.

But giving young ones the drugs offered only minimal benefits.

"Our findings reinforce the existing knowledge that the best antibiotic treatment for common childhood ear infections may be no antibiotic treatment at all," said lead author of the study Tuimaini Coker.

"Of 100 average-risk children with AOM, approximately 80 would likely get better within about three days without antibiotics," the study said.

If all 100 were given an antibiotic, 92 would "likely improve," but other painful side effects would pop up, like a rash in three to 10 of those children and diarrhea in five to 10 of them, it said.

"Clinicians need to weigh these risks (including possible long-term effects on antibiotic resistance) and benefits before prescribing immediate antibiotics for un-

complicated AOM," the study authors said.

The study took place over 10 years and was carried out by researchers from the Southern California Evidence Based Practice Center.

The study examined previously published research at the request of the American Academy of Pediatrics as part of its effort to update practice guidelines for treating ear infections in young children.

Health Tip

Ask about Mad Aunt Edith. Find out your family history. You need to know if there are any inherited diseases prowling your gene pool. According to the Mayo Clinic, USA, finding out what your grandparents died of can provide useful – even lifesaving – information about what's in store for you. And be candid, not coy: 25 percent of the children of alcoholics become alcoholics themselves.

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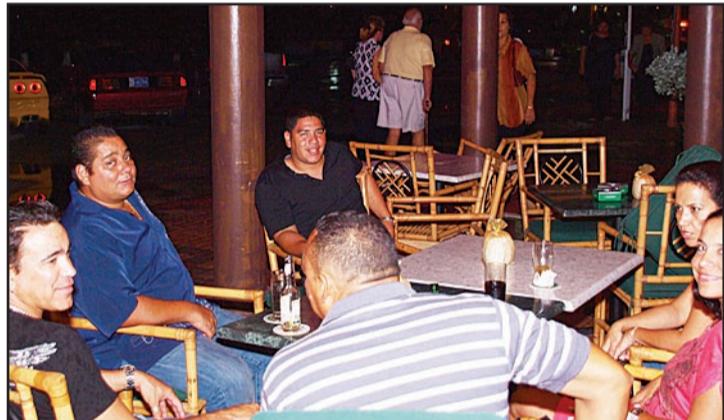
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socialize in the relaxed surrounding.

A quick glance at the menu listed gourmet treats such as escargot, frog legs and a hearty crab and corn chowder along with fresh local fish, prime steaks and creative poultry dishes and salads at extremely reasonable prices. The owner's aim is to establish the sort of place where one cares to linger all night long, enjoying the casual but lively ambiance. "We open at 4:00 p.m. and close...when ever," explained Michael, "until the last customer is ready to come home."

Hailing originally from Holland and Suriname, Michael and Mireille have run two very successful and similar eateries in both countries. They confess they couldn't find anything quite like Grand Café 21 on the Aruba, and felt there was a void that needed to be filled.

If you wish to enjoy a full evening of fine dining and dancing as the world used to know, but loud, heavy electronic music is not your thing, than Grand Café 21 is the place for you! Open Tuesday through Sunday, they hope to soon welcome patrons "not as customers, but as friends."

by Rosalie Klein



For all those on Aruba who have long wished for a place to relax and enjoy favorite music and stimulating conversation, there is now a place "for the rest of us," in Palm Beach; the recently opened Grand Café 21, located in what was formally Pavarotti's and Bella Luna restaurants.

The new owners, Michael and Mireille Heilker have converted the formal restaurant into a cozy lounge/eatery where one can come to enjoy a gourmet meal from veteran Chef Wim Elzing, a fusion of French with a Caribbean flair, and then stay on to dance and

Popular Pizza Bob's is perfect for casual dining

Everyone has those nights when they want an easy, casual meal, and among denizens of the Eagle Beach area, their favorite place for fun food and friendly surroundings is Pizza Bob's, right next to the Bucuti Beach resort parking lot.

Maitre D' Alex adores welcoming his abundant repeat clientele, being five minutes walk from most of Aruba's timeshares has made the place a prime eatery among families with healthy appetites. Their pizza is modeled on the classic thin crust typical of Chicago's Southside, and the secret recipe of a famous pizzeria since 1957, which we dare not name as we might get whacked!

While checking out the locale, Alex introduced us to Sharla and Caroline from Sweden, frequent visitors to Aruba who can't imagine a vacation without several dinner stops at Pizza Bob's. This was the general consensus of all the guests who we spoke with during our time there; all make it a multiple meal choice during their vacation. "I have one couple from Germany who eat here every night of their vacation," confessed Alex, "they are like family to us!"

Aside from the famous pizzas, the menu features very tasty barbecue, a personal favorite of Caroline, lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Linguini and huge salads that can be shared by two, plus a personal favorite for dessert, "Death by Chocolate." They do sport an air-conditioned dining room, which is popular at lunch time to escape the tropical mid-day sun, but nighttime is the right time to enjoy their outdoor terrace and great music from noted island singer Tommy every Wednesday and Satur-



A popular hangout with Eagle Beach temporary residents



Swedish sisters Sharla and Caroline are huge fans of Pizza Bob's

day night, which converts the eatery into a congenial hangout until closing time.

If you love your pizza and island ambiance, Pizza Bob's is the perfect place for a fun night. Open for lunch and dinner every day from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 pm., and they deliver

to all the resorts in the Eagle Beach area. Call 588 9040 ext. 790 for delivery or to pre-order. They also feature a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. when you can enjoy a large size pizza for the price of a medium and drinks are 2-for-1; what a deal!

Take time to get acquainted with

NIKKY
B E A C H
A R U B A



There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while pro-

viding a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikky Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the adjacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the tradi-

tional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 am. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Pack-

age that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeach.aruba.com.

by Rosalie Klein



Special Aruba friends honored

Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority presented loyal Aruba vacationers with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for 10 and 20 consecutive years.

Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with 20 consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes.

Frank and Carmella Ortenzo, staying at the Occidental Grand, were honored as Ambassadors of goodwill for their 20 consecutive years vacationing here.

Also Joseph and Nancy



Ricardo Croes together with Frank and Carmella and staff from the Occidental Grand Resort

Arcline, staying at the Marriott Surf Club were honored

as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. They have been lo-yal



Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also staff from the Marriott Surf Club Resort

visitors to the island for 10 years

Pictures show ATA rep Ri-

cardo Croes handing the honorees their respective certificates.



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Finance



BRUSSELS, Belgium -- (L to R) EU commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Ciolos, EU commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli, EU commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship Antonio Tajani, EU commissioner for Internal Market and Services Michel Barnier arrive for a joint press conference prior the first meeting of the high level forum for a better functioning of the food supply chain on November 16, 2010 at the EU headquarters in Brussels. The Forum will contribute to boost the competitiveness of the European food supply chain by ensuring a smooth follow-up of the recommendations of the high level group on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry. (AFP PHOTO)



ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan -- Turkmen women, wearing traditional embroidered caps, walk in front of the National Press Building during the opening of the annual oil and gas conference, bringing together Western energy executives and the Turkmen leadership, in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat. The Central Asian nation of Turkmenistan, which sits atop the world's fourth-biggest natural gas reserves, is looking to diversify energy supplies and is pushing to revive plans to build a pipeline to deliver gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. (AFP PHOTO)

US report slams 'discriminatory' Chinese trade barriers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - China is following "highly discriminatory" economic practices that favor domestic trade over foreign imports, an effort that harms the US economy.

"Under the guise of fostering 'indigenous innovation' in its economy, the government of China appears determined to exclude foreigners from bidding on government contracts at the central, provincial, and local levels," said Dan Slane, chairman of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Warning Beijing is failing to fulfill pledges made in 2001 upon joining the World Trade Organization, Slane said the Chinese government "quite simply intends to wall off a majority of its economy from international competition."

Air France-KLM returns to profit

PARIS, France (AFP) - Air France-KLM said yesterday it returned to profit in its second quarter, taking advantage of an improved situation in the civil aviation sector as a whole to raise its financial targets.

The carrier reported net earnings of 290 million euros (392 million dollars) in the June-September period after a loss of 147 million euros a year earlier.

At the operating level, reflecting core activities, the company earned 576 million euros against a loss of 47 million in the same period of 2009.

Sales rose 18.6 percent to 6.64 billion euros.

Air France-KLM took a heavy hit last year in the global recession, which cut deeply into passenger and freight traf-



fic.

In response, the company undertook severe capacity cutbacks, restructured its freight business and carried out a cost-cutting campaign on short- and medium-haul flights.

The company is now look-

ing ahead to an operating profit of more than 300 million euros in its financial year to March 2011.

For the full fiscal year 2009 Air France-KLM suffered an operating loss of 1.28 billion euros.

Google opens online boutique for stylish women

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) - Google sauntered into the world of haute couture yesterday with the launch of boutiques.com, an online shop that matches hot fashions to women's tastes.

Style-conscious US women can create their own online boutiques or browse collections "curated by taste-makers" such as celebrities, designers, and fashion bloggers, according to Google product man-

agement director Munjal Shah.

Boutiques uses computer vision and machine learning technologies to match a woman's tastes with clothing or accessories that she might find tempting.

"In fashion, there are lots of choices," Shah said. "This site had to be collaborative."

Google got fashion trend-setters and spotters to share top picks and to "teach" the website what they liked when it

came to styles.

"They did this by telling us what colors, patterns, brands and silhouettes they loved and they hated," Shah said.

"Our machine learning algorithms use this information to enable you to shop all of the inventory in the style of that taste-maker, on top of the 50 items they've hand curated."

Boutiques lets people create personalized online shops infused with their fashion preferences.

Search tools help solve style puzzles such as figuring out which shoes or handbag best matches an outfit, according to Shah.

Boutiques.com was only available in the United States and was limited to women's fashion.



Food to detergents group Unilever has been told by the European Commission to sell its Sanex personal care line because of fears about the company's dominant position in the market.

Sanex was part of the portfolio of products Unilever acquired from Sara Lee last year.

Sanex accounts for around 20% of the €750m turnover generated by the Sara Lee products, according to the Fi-

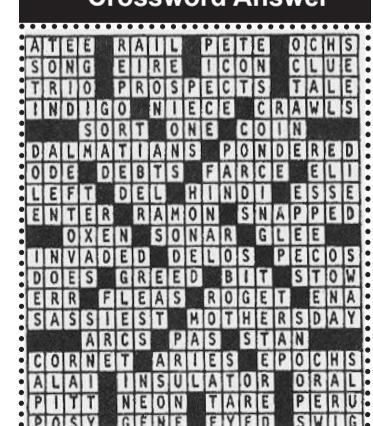
nancial Times.

Unilever says it is confident it will be able to sell the operations by this time next year.

In September, Unilever made a \$3.7bn cash offer for personal care products maker Alberto-Culver.

Doug Baillie, head of Unilever's western Europe operations, told the FT he did not expect that deal to prove a problem. 'It is a different set of markets,' Baillie told the paper.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Quality Apartments is also located only 1 mile from Aruba's greatest casinos, four large supermarkets, bank, car rentals, motorcycle rentals, excellent nightclubs and bowling club.

It has 43 comfortable studio-apartments (max. 3 persons) and 17 luxurious apartments (max. 4 persons) with a loft.

These fabulous loft apartments are more spacious, with the sleeping area upstairs on the loft. All apartments are completely furnished with cable TV. The open kitchen is very spacious and equipped with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

The laundry is accessible to all guests 24 hours a day. There is a large fresh water swimming pool, with a pool deck and beach chairs, where you can relax any time of the day. At the reception, the friendly staff is always ready to attend you with a smile.

Quality Apartments is situated at the Schotlandstraat 70 in Oranjestad. For reservations or information readers may call at tel: (297)-582-0697 or (297)-583-7484, Fax: (297)-583-5203. Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E-mail: quality@setarnet.aw, Website: <http://arubaqualityapartments.com>

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Plain Pancake

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it

is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain - to die for - Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza

the sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

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Jolie movie starts filming in Bosnia



SARAJEVO, Bosni-Herzegovina (AFP) – Shooting for Angelina Jolie's directorial debut started in Bosnia on Wednesday after a ban triggered by controversy over the content of the movie was lifted.

Local producer Edin Sarkic told AFP the shooting had started at a location in Sarajevo in the absence of Jolie, who was expected in Bosnia at a later date.

Due to heavy rain the shooting started hours later than originally planned, according to an AFP photographer.

The daily Dnevni Avaz reported that Jolie's crew will film only panoramic views of the capital Sarajevo and some scenes in the central town of Vares.

Sarkic told national radio that the shooting was originally planned at 17 locations in Bosnia but will now only be done in five.

Jolie herself is still in Hungary filming scenes for the movie, a love story between a Muslim woman and a Serb man set against the background of Bosnia's bloody 1992-95 inter-ethnic war, the local producer told AFP.

According to local media reports the shooting in Bosnia is to end on Sunday.

The Hollywood superstar started filming her first feature as a director in Hungary's capital Budapest in early October.

According to a short synopsis of the film a young couple is separated as the war starts. When they see each other again the girl, a Muslim, is held in a detention camp where her former boyfriend is now a guard.

The movie caused controversy in Bosnia when local media reported rumours that the film was the story of a Muslim rape victim who falls in love with her Serb attacker.

Women victims' associations complained about the reported content and in mid-October the Bosnian authorities suspended Jolie's filming permit.

It was quickly reinstated after Jolie sent the authorities a copy of the script which her Bosnian production company says does not include any rape love story.

The actress-turned-director has said she wants to meet the associations who complained about her film while she is shooting in Bosnia to clear up any misunderstandings.

"Until now all we have is her wish and promise that she will come" to meet them but no date has been set yet, Bakira Hasecic of the Women Victims of War (WVW) association told AFP Wednesday.

The association was in contact with Jolie since late August through the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), as she is its goodwill ambassador, Hasecic explained.

The 1992-1995 war between Bosnia's Croats, Muslims and Serbs claimed some 100,000 lives. Government officials say at least 20,000 mostly Muslim women suffered sexual abuse during the conflict.

Fortune-tellers warn of rocky road for William and Kate

HONG KONG, China (AFP) – Asian fortune-tellers are divining mixed blessings for Britain's Prince William and fiancee Kate Middleton, with the gloomier oracles warning of affairs, divorce and trouble having children.

Arun Kumar Bansal, president of the All India Federation of Astrologers' Societies, saw a mostly rosy future for the second in line to the throne and his wife-to-be, who on Tuesday announced they would marry next year.

"They match quite well. Together they score 24 points out of 36 on general compatibility," he told AFP after poring over the couple's astrological birth charts, which he said showed the benign influence of the planet Mercury.

"She has a softer personality than him. She will agree to his demands, and be accommodating of his needs. They will share a good friendship. They will not fight, in public or private -- and Kate will conduct herself well in public.

"William is going through the best phase of his life right now. It will last for 15 to 20 years. But he will not be king for a very long time, at least 15 years," he said.

In many Asian cultures, fortune-tellers are the first port of call for people in search of the right partner, and their guidance on the most auspicious date for the wedding and for naming children holds a powerful sway.

Bansal predicted wedding bells would likely chime for William and Middleton in June or July.

The only cloud on the horizon, he said, was that the couple may struggle for years before they can conceive the next generation of Britain's royalty.

One of Hong Kong's top feng shui masters, Yeo Timming, saw no such problems on the children front, predicting Middleton would likely get pregnant in 2012.

"The two are very compatible in my eyes. One is born winter time and the other is born during the summer time. They complement each other well," he said, while cautioning that the pair would likely quarrel.

Another Hong Kong fortune-teller was less optimistic, however, saying the royal union would likely end in divorce -- condemning the couple to the same fate as William's parents Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

"There will be major prob-



lems for the couple in the decade after Prince William reaches the age of 39," said Anthony Cheng, a well-known feng shui columnist and TV personality.

Cheng said the 28-year-old prince would likely either suffer a serious accident or get divorced in his 40s.

"One of these will happen. And if he encounters an accident, it is likely going to be fatal," Cheng said, advising the prince to avoid travel to southern or tropical locations.

He further feared that Middleton would have to be a long-suffering wife if the marriage was to last.

"From a Chinese geomancy perspective, Prince William has too much 'peach blossom' luck. In other words, he will have a lot of love interests in his life. He develops feelings for other women easily."

The marriage would therefore depend on Middleton's tolerance level, Cheng said, explaining that the prince is "very likely going to have an affair."

"The only way their marriage will last is if this girl turns a blind eye to all this," Cheng added.

But unlike Diana, Middleton could at least count on



Kate Middleton wears the engagement ring of Diana, Princess of Wales

good relations with her royal in-laws, Cheng said. "This girl will be loved by the royal family, especially the queen."

Another feng shui master, author and TV personality Mak Ling Ling, foresaw none of the problems Cheng described.

"The couple is quite compatible. For both of them, this year or next year are good years to get married," she said.

And noting that Middleton is six months older than William, Mak said: "Prince William is right to marry an older wife. Their personalities match well. I foresee a good marriage for them."

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Felix, Oliver win Jesse Owens Awards



Felix

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) - Allyson Felix was named winner of the Jesse Owens Award for the third time in her career on Tuesday by USA Track and Field, which gave the 2010 men's honor to hurdler David Oliver.

Felix also won the award, named for 1930s legend Owens and presented to the year's outstanding US athletics male and female competitors, in 2005 and 2007.

"To be recognized as the best American female track and field athlete is truly humbling," Felix said.

Felix has won three world outdoor titles and two Olympic silver medals at 200 meters.

Felix won the inaugural Diamond League crowns in the women's 200 and 400. Her season-best 22.03 in the 200 was second-fastest in the world in 2010. She also cap-

400 triumphs at London, Doha, Eugene and Zurich.

Oliver, bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the 110 hurdles, posted the five fastest times in the world this year, the best of them an American record 12.89-second run from his victory in Paris last July.

That performance ranked fourth on the all-time list and put him behind Cuban world record-holder Dayron Robles and former world record-holder Liu Xiang of China among 110 hurdles performers.

Oliver was unbeaten in 15 finals outdoors and won the inaugural Diamond League 110 hurdles title.

"Winning this award is one of the most outstanding accomplishments I have ever achieved," Oliver said.

Both Oliver and Felix are among the top US medal hopefuls for the 2012 London Olympics.



Owens

tured the US 100-meter crown last June in 11.27 seconds. Her 2010 season included helping a US 4x400 relay title at the World Indoor Championships in Doha and 200 triumphs in Paris, Stockholm, Brussels and London plus

400 triumphs at London, Doha, Eugene and Zurich.

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Vettel win expected to boost German motorsport

BERLIN (AFP) - Sebastian Vettel's Formula One world title is expected to give German motorsport a major boost, team bosses said here Wednesday. Vettel's win expected to boost German motorsport day with Vettel-mania sweeping the nation.

The 23-year-old became

the first German since seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher to win the world drivers' title last Sunday when he picked up his fifth Grand Prix win of the season in Abu Dhabi.

Vettel is the youngest driver to win the world title and is now expected to inspire the next generation of Formula One drivers here.

"This is the best thing that can happen (for the sport here)," Norbert Haug, Mercedes' motorsport director, told SID, a subsidiary of AFP.

"Of course, it is a huge story in Germany and a boost for Formula One."

After a successful career in go-karting, Vettel graduated to the 2004 German Formula BMW Championship with 18 victories from 20 races.

His success, and rise up the ranks, is seen as a huge marketing boost for motorsport, said BMW's motorsport director Mario Thiessen.

Former world number one Moya to retire



ered from a foot injury that has dogged him in recent years.

"It was difficult to continue," he said. "I'm going to rest now, spend some time at home."

If he can, Moya intends to wrap up his career at the Masters tournament in Seville in southern Spain, set for December 9-11.

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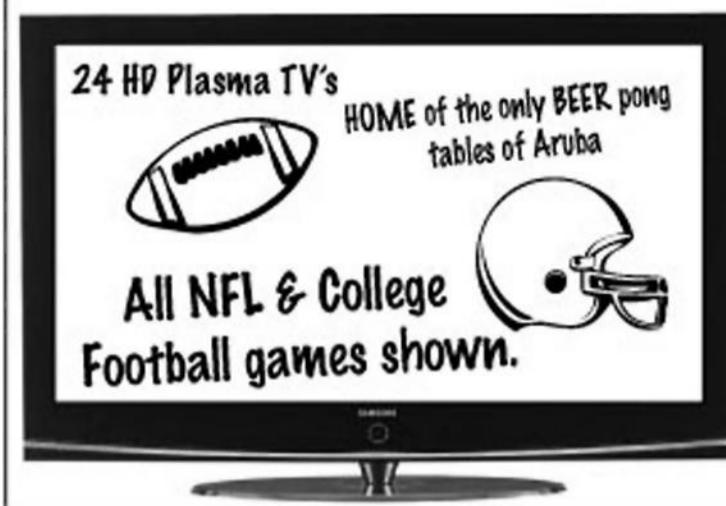
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Messi stunner sinks arch-rivals Brazil

DOHA (AFP) - A brilliant solo goal in injury time by Lionel Messi earned Argentina a 1-0 victory over their arch-rivals Brazil in an international friendly here on Wednesday.

The Barcelona superstar picked up the ball midway inside the Brazil half and weaved past four defenders before firing a low shot into the bottom-right corner with just a minute of added time to play.

It was Messi's first ever goal against Brazil and allowed Argentina to record their first win against their old enemies since June 2005.

His strike also allowed coach Sergio Batista to celebrate victory in his first game in charge since he was confirmed as the long-term successor to Diego Maradona.

For Brazil it was a first defeat in four matches for new coach Mano Menezes, who had led his country to victories in his first three matches



half, as Brazil impressed with their slick approach play, and Batista will have been delighted to secure a famous win after the 1-0 loss to Japan in their previous outing.

AC Milan forward Ronaldinho was making his first Brazil appearance since April 2009 and although he illuminated the game with some classy touches, he could not prise open the Argentine defence.

Clattering tackles were a recurring feature of the encounter and a glut of second-half substitutions seemed set to usher the game towards an anti-climactic conclusion.

Bryant scores 31 as Lakers beat Bucks

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AFP) - Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and Spaniard Pau Gasol added 18 points and 10 rebounds to power the reigning NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers past Milwaukee 118-107.

Shannon Brown scored 16 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers, who on Tuesday improved to 8-2 and snapped a two-game losing skid after opening the season with eight triumphs in a row.

Brandon Jennings led the Bucks with 31 points while Drew Gooden added 22 points and Corey Maggette contributed 15 for Milwaukee, which led 59-57 at half-time but saw the Lakers win the third quarter 33-22 to seize command.

Bryant, who had seven rebounds, scored seven consecutive points in his 13-point third quarter and Brown sank four separate three-pointers in the fourth quarter to power the Lakers past what had been the NBA's top-ranked defensive unit.

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at the helm and had not previously seen his team concede a goal.

Both South American giants are rebuilding after disappointing World Cups and they will resume hostilities in La Plata, Argentina on December 19.

The Albiceleste were second-best for much of the first

Results of Euro 2012 qualifiers on Wednesday:

Group E

Finland 8 (Vayrynen 39, Hamalainen 49, 67, Forssell 51, 59, 78, Litmanen 71-pen, Porokara 73) San Marino 0

Group F

Croatia 3 (Kranjcar 18, 42, Kalinic 81) Malta 0

USA Swimming parts ways with coach Schubert

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AFP) - USA Swimming confirmed the ouster of Mark Schubert as national team coach and general manager and announced a search for a new national team director.

Schubert, who served 4 1/2 years in the job, was placed on a 60-day leave in September with the reasons for the split kept private. No more details on the rift were forthcoming in USA Swimming's statement confirming the move.

"I continue to have the highest admiration and re-

spect for Mark Schubert and for his accomplishments and contributions to the sport," USA Swimming executive director Chuck Wielgus said on Tuesday.

"I am saddened by this parting of ways as I was the one who sought out and recruited Mark for the job at USA Swimming. I know Mark still has much to give to the sport he loves and wish him the best in his future endeavors."

Former USA Swimming president Jim Wood will serve as the national team leader on an interim basis.



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Top FIFA official hits out at double vote

DOHA (AFP) - Asian Football Confederation president Mohamed Bin Hammam has criticised FIFA's decision to choose the organisers of two World Cups at the same time.

England, Russia and joint bids by Spain-Portugal and Netherlands-Belgium are in the running to host the 2018 World Cup while Australia, the United States, Japan, Qatar and South Korea are bidding for 2022.

However the process has been hit with controversy, with newspaper allegations of possible vote-buying and collusion between bidders. So far, two FIFA members have been suspended and the body will on Thursday announce the outcome of a probe into the allegations.

Bin Hammam, a member of FIFA's executive committee, believes FIFA should never again allow two editions of the World Cup to be voted on at the same time.

He believes voting for one tournament at a time will reduce the possibility of corruption allegations that have plunged the process into crisis.

"I hope it's the last time," Bin Hammam told the Aspire4Sport conference in Doha Wednesday.

"From the beginning the Asian members, including me, were not convinced that deciding two World Cups at the same time was a good idea.

"I raised my voice and said the decision for 2022 should perhaps have been in 2016, or maybe 2014, and that it was not appropriate for people sitting in the FIFA executive committee today to make that decision.

"We raised so many objections but the vote was taken and we were outvoted. I hope people have realised that it was wrong."

The ethics committee of world football's governing body has been meeting since Monday in an attempt to complete its investigation after two of the 24 members of FIFA's executive committee were provisionally suspended last month.

Four other football officials and ex-FIFA decision makers were also sidelined following the claims of possible vote buying raised in a controversial sting by undercover reporters for a British newspaper.

FIFA has also scheduled a meeting of its decision-making executive committee for Friday, a spokesperson told AFP, but no further details were given.

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Orbital bone repair surgery successful for Margarito

DALLAS (AFP) - Antonio Margarito underwent successful right orbital bone surgery at Methodist Hospital on Tuesday, three days after taking a punishing beating at the hands of Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao.

Margarito was kept overnight at the hospital before a Wednesday release. He

plans to take a flight to Los Angeles and then return to his home in Tijuana, Mexico, after losing in the World Boxing Council super welterweight title bout.

Pacquiao won a unanimous 12-round decision over Margarito on Saturday in nearby Arlington, punishing his larger rival so badly that

surgery to repair the bone around his eye had to be delayed so facial swelling could ease.

"The doctor told us everything went perfect -- no complications of any kind," said Margarito manager Sergio Diaz. "There's nothing wrong with his right eye."

Diaz said Margarito will

have two months without contact of any kind in a gym to allow the fighter to heal.

"Antonio is such a warrior. The first thing he asked was 'When can I start running?' and we told him he has to relax for awhile," Diaz said. "For sure, at least 60 days of no contact of any kind in a gym."